

# Holidays in your hometown

Pull out and keep this section for information and ideas on how to enjoy the holiday season in Santa Clara.

## Annual Holiday Tree Lighting



Start the holiday season out right with Santa's first official holiday appearance in town at the City's annual "Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony" on Friday, Dec. 7, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, corner of Civic Center Drive and Lincoln Avenue.

The family event includes live music, holiday safety displays and refreshments.

Please remember to bring a canned food item for those in need. Call 1-408-615-3170 for further information.

## Look for Teddy at top of tree



*Torn raincoat on Teddy after a storm.*

Surrounded by 1,000 colored lights, Teddy the bear will once again be perched on top of the Santa Clara holiday tree watching the community celebrate and bring in the New Year.

Teddy was once the beloved toy of Alice Dixon Hillis whose father was the utilities superintendent for the City. When Alice was just one year old, Mr. Dixon "borrowed" her bear to serve as an ornament on top of the tree he had just cut down in the Santa Cruz Mountains for City Hall. Teddy has spent December on the Santa Clara tree every since.

Over the years, Teddy the bear got a little bare. Employees of the Electric Department tried a mini-face lift with duct tape and silver spray paint, but Teddy continued to show his age. In

1987, Teddy underwent more drastic surgery in the hands of Evelyn Carmichael, the wife of then Parks & Recreation Director Earl Carmichael. She refurbished Teddy with a furry tan cloth that closely resembles the way toy bears looked in 1911. At the time, the daughter of another City employee Wendy Taylor donated a raincoat and boots to help Teddy stay dry during winter storms.

Life was pretty good for Teddy until the winter storms of 1998 when City

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## December Events

### Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday, Dec. 1**

Santa is making a special visit to Santa Clara this year to have breakfast with all the boys and girls who sign up with at least one adult per family; pre-registration is required. A tasty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will be prepared by the Santa Clara High



School Booster Club and children can have their photo taken with Santa and create unique holiday crafts. The event is 9 to 11 a.m. at the Santa Clara Senior Center. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Look for information in the Fall Recreation Activities Guide or call 1-408-614-3140. Cost is \$14 for residents of Santa Clara and \$18 for non-residents. Babies under one year of age are free.

### Holiday Train

**Saturday, Dec. 1**



Caltrain's festively decorated Holiday Train will return to the Santa Clara Depot, carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Salvation Army band and carolers to lead the community in singing Christmas music. Also on board will be members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve collecting new toys for its annual Toys for Tots drive. The train's arrival time will be

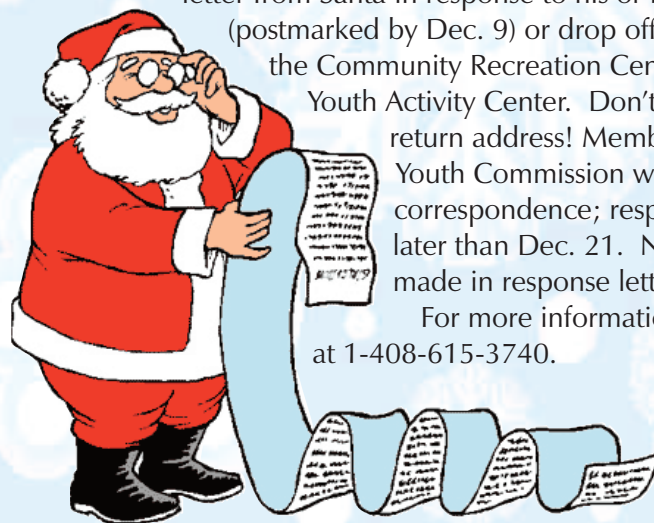
announced later this fall. That same evening, the South Bay Historical Railroad Society will open the depot for visitors. Two model train displays will be operating and refreshments served. The Holiday Train is sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. For details, check the website [holiday-train.com](http://holiday-train.com).

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## Would your child like a letter from Santa?

Santa Clara residents only! If your child would like to have a personal letter from Santa in response to his or her wish list, mail (postmarked by Dec. 9) or drop off the letter by Dec. 9 at the Community Recreation Center, Teen Center or Youth Activity Center. Don't forget to include a return address! Members of the Santa Clara Youth Commission will help Santa with his correspondence; responses will be mailed no later than Dec. 21. No promises will be made in response letters!

For more information, call the Teen Center at 1-408-615-3740.







# December Events (Continued from previous page)

## Historic Home Tour

Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8



Tickets for the 34th annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour will go on sale beginning in October. This year's tour will be held Friday, Dec. 7, 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 8, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Among the private homes on this year's tour is a California Craftsman bungalow designed by the architectural firm of Wolfe & McKenzie and built about 1912, and a circa 1901 Colonial style home containing a hipped roof. The public building on the tour will be the lovely St. Clare Parish Rectory that includes a chapel, reception area and library.

The Board of the Harris-Lass House Museum co-sponsors the tour with the Old Quad Residents Association. Proceeds benefit historic preservation projects and other nonprofit groups in Santa Clara. The nonprofit Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium will hold an opportunity drawing at the St. Clare Rectory during the tour as a fundraiser for their organization.

Tickets are \$25 if ordered by mail or on the tour's website by Oct. 31. Mail order forms will be available during October at the Central Park and Mission Libraries. Tickets also may be ordered by sending a legal-size self addressed stamped envelope to: Historic Home Tour 2012, c/o Harris-Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311.

Beginning Nov. 1, ticket prices are \$30 general admission, \$25 seniors (60+) or children (6-12) and may be purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Rd. No children under the age of 6 will be admitted. If still available on the days of the tour, all tickets will be \$35 at the door of the St. Clare Rectory, 725 Washington St.

For more information, call the Harris-Lass House Museum message line at 1-408-249-7905, view the Home Tour website at [sc-hometour.com](http://sc-hometour.com), or email [hometour@harrislass.org](mailto:hometour@harrislass.org).

## The Nutcracker Ballet

Saturday, Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 9

Artistic Director Josefa Villanueva-Reyes presents Santa Clara Ballet's 39th Annual, full-length ballet production of *The Nutcracker*. All performances will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway (Curtain time 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday).



Open Auditions for Dancers of all levels and ages for this production will be held Sunday, Sept. 9, starting at 12 noon, at the Santa Clara Ballet School, 3086 El Camino Real. The company engages professional guest artists in lead roles, while providing opportunities for semi-pre-professional dancers, children and adults to perform in a professional environment. The Company welcomes community volunteers to assist in the production.

For more information on the Santa Clara Ballet's *Nutcracker* and the Santa Clara Ballet School, contact [info@santaclaraballet.com](mailto:info@santaclaraballet.com), call 1-408-247-9178 or visit [santaclaraballet.com](http://santaclaraballet.com).

## Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, Dec. 8

Come to this fun event from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Central Park Library to find all types of hand-crafted items, holiday jewelry, cards and other great gifts. This second annual event will be held in the Redwood and Cedar Rooms. Vendor cost is \$25 per table and applications are available at the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends office on the second floor of the Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Items should be primarily handmade; no food sales will be allowed. Spaces are limited and will be juried. Proceeds benefit Library programs. For information, call 1-408-615-2988.

## An Evening with Santa

Friday, Dec. 21

Santa will take a break from his busy holiday preparations to visit with Santa Clara families at the Community Recreation Center. This event features activities geared to children ages 3-7, but all ages are welcome to attend. Children will enjoy holiday stories told by Santa Clara Library staff, holiday songs, photos with Santa, crafts, and delicious refreshments. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$6 per child (babies under one free) and \$2 per parent for residents of Santa Clara. Non-residents pay \$8 per child and \$3 per parent. For information, call 1-408-615-3740.

## Recycle your holiday tree

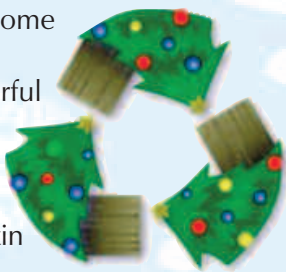
The holiday season's final tradition is putting the tree out for curbside recycling. This year, trees will be picked up on your regular solid waste collection day during the week of January 7-11, 2013. Here's what to do:

- \* Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand. Flocked trees cannot be recycled, so they will be collected and disposed of as garbage.
- \* Place the stripped tree next to the garbage and Clean Green cart setouts at the curb on your regular collection day.
- \* Holiday trees from small businesses and residents who miss the curbside collection may be dropped off at the southwest corner of the intersection of San Tomas Expressway and Monroe Streets. The drop-off will be available during the week of January 7-11 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. only.
- \* Multi-family residents can set out their holiday trees on the nearest public street for pickup on the assigned single family home garbage/recycling collection days. Call 1-408-615-3080 to find out assigned garbage/recycling days in particular areas.
- \* Trees may also be recycled after Jan. 11 by cutting up the tree and placing the pieces in the Clean Green cart. For more information on holiday tree recycling, call 1-408-615-3080.

## Reduce and recycle holiday waste

Dreaming of a "Green Christmas?" Here are some eco-friendly holiday ideas:

- Wrap gifts in comics, old maps or other colorful paper materials normally found around the home or office.
- Instead of wrapping gifts in paper, try presenting them in reusable containers like tin or plastic holiday boxes, gift bags or baskets. Save gift bags, boxes and bows for reuse.
- Buy gift wrap that contains recycled paper. Avoid metallic-type wrapping papers that contain foil, Mylar or holographic materials, which are not recyclable.
- Recycle wrapping paper (except metallic, foil, Mylar or holographic) with mixed paper in the City's new single-stream curbside recycling program. Simply place in the blue recycle cart.
- Make gift tags or ornaments from old greeting cards and wrapping materials.
- Use cloth napkins, metal flatware, china plates and real glasses for "waste-less" holiday parties and meals.
- Purchase a manufactured tree that can be stored and reused each year.



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## Excess holiday waste a problem?

Holidays bring friends, families, parties and get-togethers – and sometimes more trash than your garbage cart can handle. Santa Clara residents may set out as many as four additional 30-gallon plastic garbage bags (limit 30 pounds per bag; limit two bags per week) on their regular solid waste collection day from Dec. 26, 2012 through Jan. 5, 2013 at no extra charge.

At any other time during the year, for a nominal cost, additional 30-gallon plastic bags of garbage tied with “extra bag” tags may be placed at the curb for pickup on your regular solid waste collection day.

Extra bag tags can be purchased for \$4 each at the Cashier Counter in the Finance Department at City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tags may also be ordered by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check (payable to “City of Santa Clara”) to the Utility Services Division, Finance Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Indicate the number of tags to be purchased and make the check payable for the exact amount of \$4 per tag.

Residential customers with front-load dumpsters are eligible to get one additional collection per year free of charge. Just call Mission Trail Waste Systems at 1-408-727-5365 to make an appointment for the extra collection. For more information, call 1-408-615-3080.

## Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest



Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted from Nov. 26 through Dec. 7. Decorate the exterior of your home or business in cheerful, colorful holiday décor and talk to your neighbors about doing the same. Nominate yourself, your neighbor, or one of the brightly lit homes or businesses you’ve seen around the City.

Nominations for best outdoor decorations in four categories (residential, business, neighborhood, and best tree) will be evaluated by a team of judges on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Winners will be announced Dec. 12. Then you can check the City’s website at [santaclaraca.gov](http://santaclaraca.gov) for the list of winners along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order. Winners will be acknowledged at a City Council meeting in early January 2013.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at 1-408-615-2210.

## Holiday classes for the whole family

Special holiday-themed classes for families will be offered by the Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department in December including a workshop on building gingerbread houses with graham crackers and icing, a two-week “Jingle Jam” music class with singing and dancing, and a class to create holiday decorations and ornaments.

Information is available in the Fall *Recreation Activities Guide*, available at City Hall, the Community Recreation Center, Teen Center, Youth Activity Center and the Santa Clara Senior Center. It can also be viewed online at [santaclaraca.gov](http://santaclaraca.gov) under “Activities and Classes.”

Classes are expected to fill quickly, so early registration is recommended.

## Wrap up your hometown

For unique gift ideas that showcase your pride in Santa Clara, visit the City Store at the Chamber of Commerce, 1850 Warburton Ave. Gift items include sweatshirts, mugs, polo shirts, golf accessories, canvas tote bags, umbrellas, license plate frames, and more.

The Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium can provide prints from the photographs in its historic photo collection, which includes



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## Prevent holiday tree fires



House fires first ignited by Christmas trees, both real and artificial, cause an average of 25 civilian deaths and \$13 million in direct property damage in the U.S. every year. Christmas tree fires are not frequent occurrences, but when they happen, they are likely to be serious.

The Santa Clara Fire Department recommends these simple, life-saving steps you can take to greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

### Selecting a tree

- \* Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- \* The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- \* Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

### Caring for your tree

- \* Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- \* Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- \* Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

### Disposing of your tree

- \* Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- \* When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- \* The best way to dispose of your tree is to take advantage of the City’s tree recycling program. (See the related article on page B.)

## More holiday fire safety tips

- \* Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- \* Use only holiday lighting that has been listed by an approved testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- \* Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- \* Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- \* Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch.
- \* Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- \* Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- \* Never leave candles burning unattended.
- \* Never put lit candles on a tree
- \* Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame — candles, lighters or matches.

## Shop Local-Save Local Now

Are you looking to save money at your local restaurants and merchants? Then download the FREE Save Local Now app, provided by the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce & Convention-Visitors Bureau! Save Local Now is unlike any online savings site. There are no minimum requirements and you don’t have to wait to print out the coupon—all you need to do to receive the discount is show the offer on your phone to the merchant. And, if you’re driving around, it will pinpoint the deals closest to your location. You may download it through the Google Play Store or through the Apple Store. For more information, just visit our website [santa-clara.savelocalnow.com](http://santa-clara.savelocalnow.com). Discounts can change daily, so check back often. Start saving today!







# Holiday crime prevention tips



Unfortunately, the holidays present many opportunities for burglars, muggers and pick-pockets. The following tips for a safer holiday season are provided by your Santa Clara Police Department. Practice these tips all year long!

## Shopping Safety

- \* Lock packages in the trunk.
- \* Don't overload yourself with packages.
- \* If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend.
- \* Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- \* Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- \* Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
- \* Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- \* Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don't allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- \* Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- \* Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- \* If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- \* If you are a victim of a crime, report it to police immediately.

## Home Safety

- \* Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a minute.
- \* Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- \* When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- \* Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with your California Driver's License or ID number. Engravers are available at the Central Park Library for check out.
- \* Don't advertise what gifts you received by putting the boxes curbside on trash day. Break the boxes down before placing curbside, or take them to a recycling center yourself.

## Traveling

- \* Use automatic timers for lights in your home.
- \* Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
- \* Ask neighbors to look after your home.
- \* Don't tell the world that your home will be empty by posting vacation plans on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites

# Teddy

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crews were so busy keeping power on for local homes and businesses that Teddy had an extended stay in the tree. Birds destroyed the yellow rain gear to get to Teddy's fur for their nests. Again, Evelyn Carmichael came to the rescue and gave Teddy a makeover that brought him back to his original charming look.

The City stopped cutting down trees for the holiday display in 1970, so Teddy's December home has been the same 70-foot Colorado blue spruce for more than three decades.

# 2012 Annual Report/2013 City Calendar coming your way

During the month of December, Santa Clara's 2012 Annual Report/2013 City Calendar will be distributed to all residents by mail. If you do not receive one by January 1, additional copies will be available at City Hall and the Library.

The issue will focus on both significant accomplishments of the past year and the City Council's 2011-13 Principles and Priorities. A suggestion card on the back of the calendar allows residents and businesses a convenient opportunity to submit ideas on improving City services, or to forward a compliment about a particular municipal program or the response of City staff.

# Wrap up (continued from previous page)

the City of Santa Clara's historic photographs. An 8 by 10 inch photograph costs only \$20. For larger sizes, request quotes. Copies of about 150 of these photographs are hanging in the corridors of City Hall, in Save Mart supermarket at 2610 El Camino Real, and in Kaiser Hospital. The complete collection can be viewed and orders placed on most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton Ave.

Show you care about the environment, as well as the individual, by giving Energy Star power-efficient electronics such as audio and video equipment, speakers, TVs, cordless phones, computer equipment and compact fluorescent light bulbs. More gift ideas can be found at [siliconvalleypower.com/plugins](http://siliconvalleypower.com/plugins), and you can learn more about power savings at [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov).

# Flood Protection Information

## Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates certain areas as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), also called "100-year floodplains." A flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year is called a "100-year flood." Floodplains are the areas along rivers or streams that have been or may be expected to be covered by a "100-year flood." To find out whether your property lies within a SFHA, or for information on flood-related questions, call the City Planning Department at 1-408-615-2450.

## Flood Insurance

Most property insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. However, because the City of Santa Clara participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), residents can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to anyone who has property in the City, even if it is not in a SFHA. Property owners in the City located in the SFHA receive a 10% discount in the premium costs for NFIP policies issued or renewed. Homes and businesses located within SFHA are required to be covered by a flood insurance policy as a condition of federally funded financial assistance for purchase or construction of the building. Information about flood insurance can be obtained from your insurance agent, or by calling the NFIP customer service line at 1-800-427-4661 or visiting the FEMA website, [fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodins/infocon.shtm](http://fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodins/infocon.shtm).

## Information Sources

The current flood maps, also called the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and flood protection references are available at the Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., 1-408-615-2900. The maps are also available at the City's Permit Center, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara. Any construction for flood-proofing a property requires a permit from the City's Building Inspection Division, 1-408-615-2420. Forms for Elevation Certificate are available at FEMA website, [fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383](http://fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383), and the City Planning Department, 1-408-615-2450. Copies of FEMA elevation certificates for all buildings constructed in the SFHA are available at the City Building Department, 1-408-615-2427. Online flood information and FIRM maps can be viewed at FEMA website, [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov). Online flood information can be also viewed at the City website, [santaclaraca.gov](http://santaclaraca.gov), by typing "Flood" in the search box.

## 24/7 Emergencies

To report life-threatening emergencies, call **9-1-1**. To report emergencies involving City electric, water and sewer utilities, storm drains, or flooding, call 1-408-615-5640. For information on sandbags call the City Corporation Yard at 1-408-615-3080. Up-to-date flood information during storms can be found on the Santa Clara Valley Water District website, [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org). For recorded information call 1-888-HEYNOAH (1-888-439-6624).

## Flood Warning Program

When a flood may occur, the City will warn citizens through distribution of advisory notices and emergency officials will visit each neighborhood that is threatened. For more information about the City's flood warning and emergency response plan, contact the City's Emergency Services Coordinator in the City's Fire Department at 1-408-615-4900.

## Dumping Creates Flood Hazard

Dumping debris into storm drains can restrict water flow, creating a flood hazard, and results in additional expense to taxpayers. Furthermore, our Municipal Code prohibits the dumping of debris into the City's storm drain system.